

Abstract of the Invention

A system and method for generating a plurality of authentication tags using a plurality of authentication mechanisms is disclosed. The plurality of authentication tags can reflect different authentication strength-performance levels. It is a feature of the present invention that a receiver
5 is afforded increased flexibility in adaptively choosing strength-performance levels. It is a further feature of the present invention that multiple authentication tags can be used in multicast environments, where different receivers may have different processor capabilities or security policies.

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